granted to Karnataka under the Mid-Day Meal scheme during the last three years ending 31st March, 2007 is as under:—

(i) Central assistance as Cooking Cost

Period	Amount
01.09.2004-30.04.2005	Rs. 6589.93 lakhs
01.05.2005-31.12.2005	Rs. 6754.68 lakhs
01.01.2006-30.06.2006	Rs. 3950.31 lakhs
01.07.2006-31.03.2007	Rs. 12282.26 lakhs

(II) Central assistance in the form of supply of foodgrains, Transport subsidy, Management Monitoring and Evaluation, Kitchen Sheds and Kitchen Devices

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	Allocation of foodgrains (in MTs)	' Transport Subsidy	Management Monitoring & Evaluation	Kitchen Sheds	Kitchen Devices
2004-05	117558.08	143.23	190.53	5763.61	1534.55
2005-06	112863.57	849.24	317.88		
2006-07	96517.61				

(b) Karnataka Government has reported that a sum of Rs. 25347.57 lakhs (including Central share) was provided in the State Budget for 2006-07. State Government also reported that Central assistance received upto 31st March, 2006 has been fully utilized.

(c) Central assistance to States/UTs is released only after adjusting unspent balance out of previous releases.

Quality of engineering graduates

2890. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that companies in the country are refusing the untalented engineers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to utilize human resources and infrastructure to hone the engineers in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are taking to hone the skills of engineers in the country more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Unemployment of engineers may be due to various reasons including the demand pattern within and outside the country, which *'inter alia'* depends upon performance of economy, particularly the manufacturing sector etc. Non-availability of qualified faculty and lack of adequate infrastructural facilities are some other factors, which have impact on the quality of education imparted in the Engineering Institutes.

(c) and (d) In order to impart communications and IT skills to engineering graduates as well as to brush-up their knowledge of core subjects so as to make them more employable[1] in industry, it has been decided to start Finishing Schools, initially in seven National Institutes of Technology (NITs) at Jaipur, Kurukshetra, Durgapur, Warangal, Trichy, Calicut and Surathkai as well as at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. The Finishing School courses will be organised during summer vacations for a period of 8 to 10 weeks. The Institutes would utilize their existing infrastructure for conducting these course. Admission to these courses would be restricted to persons who had completed their graduation engineering upto 2006 and were unemployed, so as to enhance their em payability.

Short supply of NCERT books

†2891. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the problems being faced by school children due to the lack of NCERT books;

(b) if so, the alternative measures being taken by Govemment in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in publication of books by NCERT?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.